

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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10

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 /017 W

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O 251057Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5206

AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS WARSAW 8434

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PL

SUBJECT: CU/ARTS -LAPO

1. EARLIER LAPO TOUR PROBLEMS PALED IN COMPARISON WITH NOV. 24
TRANSFER BUDAPEST-WARSAW.

2. AFTER OUR CONSIDERABLE EFFORT IN BUDAPEST AND WARSAW, LOT'S
ILYUSHIN 62 ARRIVED (PROMPTLY) IN BUDAPEST AT 4:00 PM - A TWO
HOUR ADVANCE OVER ITS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED 6:00 PM ETA. HOW-
EVER, LOADING NOT PERMITTED TO BEGIN UNTIL 5:00 PM AND, AS
FEARED, WAS CARRIED OUT INEPTLY BY INEXPERIENCED HANDS, IN-
SUFFICIENT IN NUMBER. BUT FOR ANATOLE HELLER'S EFFICIENT
OMNIPRESENCE, LAP WOULD PROBABLY STILL BE LANGUISHING IN
BUDAPEST. ON THE SPOT ASSISTANCE OF CAO SANDRA BORYCKI THROU-
OUT AIRPORT ORDEAL WAS INVALUABLE. LOADING FINALLY COMPLETED
10:00 PM, LEAVING BEHIND CONSIDERABLE CARGO TO FOLLOW ON
COMMERCIAL CARRIER NOV. 25.

3. CARGO-LOADING DELAY, OF COURSE, CAUSED PASSENGER-LOADING
DELAY. LAPO PERSONNEL SAT IN HOTEL LOBBY OVER ONE HOUR BEFORE
BUSES DEPARTED FOR AIRPORT AT 7:00 PM (BUSES WERE AVAILABLE,
BUT HOTEL DEPARTURE DELAYED IN EFFORT TO AVOID LONG WAIT IN
DREARY AIRPORT TERMINAL). THEN THERE WAS FURTHER WAIT AT AIR-
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PORT 8:00 TO 10:00 PM BEFORE PASSENGER-LOADING. WORST OF

ALL, WAS CLAUSTROPHOBIC THREE-AND-QUARTER-HOUR'S WAIT ABOARD PLANE BEFORE TAKE-OFF AT 1:15 AM. THIS LAST DELAY DUE TO CONSIDERABLE SNOW-RAIN AND ICING CONDITIONS BUDAPEST. DE-ICING EQUIPMENT APPEARED PRIMITIVE, SLOW.

4. DESPITE LAPO'S ADVANCE REQUEST, NETS FOR LASHING CARGO NOT PROVIDED. MOST OF FORWARD CABIN WAS JUMBLE OF LARGE AND SMALL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT CASES, TRUNKS, ETC., TIED DOWN BY FLIMSY ROPE SCROUNGED AT BUDAPEST AIRPORT - AMONG WHICH SEVERAL LAPO MUSICIANS OBLIGED SIT BECAUSE OF PLANE'S REMAINING SEATING CAPACITY. MUCH-TRAVELED ESCORT CANNOT RECALL EVER BEING MORE APPREHENSIVE OVER TAKE-OFF AND FLIGHT. FORTUNATELY, LOT CREW DID MAGNIFICENT JOB AND FLIGHT LANDED SMOOTHLY WARSAW AT 2:35 AM, SIX HOURS LATER THAN SCHEDULEDM

5. ALTHOUGH MUSICIANS GENERALLY GOOD-NATURED DURING THIS ORDEAL. THEY SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO ENCORE. FLEISCHMANN THREATENS TO ABORT REMAINDER OF TOUR UNLESS SEPARATE, ADEQUATE CARGO PLANE MADE AVAILABLE FOR WARSAWROME LEG AND OTHER PORTIONS OF ROUTE WHERE AIR TRANSPORT OF LAPO CARGO IS APPLICABLE. MEHTA HIMSELF APPEARS SUFFICIENTLY UPSET TO SUPPORT FLEISCHMANN DESPITE HIS PERSONAL STAKE IN TOUR'S SUCCESS. ESCORT'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT FLEISCHMANN WILL ABORT IF SEPARATE CARGO PLANE NOT AUTHORIZED, AND THAT HE IS JUSTIFIED IN HIS COMPLAINT RE THAT PART OF DELAY WHICH NOT CAUSED BY WEATHER.

6. URGENTLY REQUEST ROME'S AND DEPT'S AUTHORIZATION SEPARATE CARGO CARRIER.
DAVIES

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NNN

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